

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A server capable of communicating which ~~can communicate~~ with a client and a device, comprising:

~~retrieval means for retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~notifying means for notifying said client of a retrieval result of said retrieval means;~~

first management means for managing information representing ability of said device;

second management means for managing information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by the client, for the device;

retrieval condition reception means for receiving, from the client, a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

retrieval means for retrieving the device based on the information managed by said first management means, the information managed by said second management means and the retrieval condition received by said retrieval condition reception means; and

notification means for notifying the client of a retrieval result by said retrieval means.

2. (Currently Amended) A server according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~receiving means for receiving the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client from said device; and~~

~~registering means for registering the information received by said receiving means into a storage.~~

first reception means for receiving the information representing the ability of the device; and

second reception means for receiving the information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.

3. (Currently Amended) A server according to claim 1, further comprising~~[[:]]~~ generation means for generating information by coupling the information management by said first management means and the information managed by said second management means together.

~~receiving means for receiving the device information of said device from said device;~~

~~first registering means for registering the device information received by said receiving means into a first storage; and~~

~~second registering means for registering the ability information of said device driver into a second storage.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A server according to claim 3, ~~wherein the device information stored in said first storage and the ability information stored in said~~

~~second storage are combined~~ further comprising registration means for registering the information generated by said generation means to a storage unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A server according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4 , further comprising~~[[:]]~~ comparison means for comparing the information registered by said registration means with the retrieval condition.

~~registering means for registering the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client into a storage.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A server according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the retrieval condition includes a plurality of conditions plural conditions,

wherein said retrieval means compares the information ~~obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with each of said conditions~~ management by said first management means, the information managed by said second management means and each condition included in retrieval condition with others, and

wherein said ~~notifying~~ notification means notifies ~~the~~ said client of an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among ~~said plurality of the plural~~ conditions included in said the retrieval condition condition.

7. (Currently Amended) A server according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ device information is information regarding the information representing the ability of the

device is information concerning any one of [[a]] duplex print, [[an]] N-up print, [[a]] jobcopy, [[a]] pagecopy, [[an]] OHP insertion print, [[a]] resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the said device.

8. (Currently Amended) A server according to claim 1, wherein the ~~comparison by said retrieval means is executed with respect to a plurality of~~ retrieval by said retrieval means is performed with respect to plural devices.

9. (Currently Amended) A client capable of communicating ~~which can communicate~~ with a server, comprising:

~~transmitting means for transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting a device to said server;~~

~~receiving means for receiving, from said server, a retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~display control means for allowing a comparison result received by said receiving means to be displayed by a display.~~

transmission means for transmitting to said server a retrieval condition for selecting a device;

reception means for receiving a retrieval result which is based on the retrieval condition, device ability information and information representing ability of a

device driver for the device, and which is expressed in a form for discriminating a function executable by the device driver; and

display control means for causing a display unit to display the retrieval result received by said reception means.

10. (Currently Amended) A client according to claim 9, further comprising input means for inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by the said retrieval item.

11. (Original) A client according to claim 9, wherein said input means can input a plurality of retrieval items.

12. (Currently Amended) A client according to claim 9, wherein said receiving means receives an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in the said retrieval condition, and

wherein said display control means allows the said adaptivity to be displayed by said display.

13. (Currently Amended) A client according to claim 10, wherein the said retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

14. (Currently Amended) A device capable of communicating which

~~can communicate with a server, which transmits for transmitting a retrieval result to a client with respect to a retrieval condition which is result in response to a retrieval condition sent from the said client and used for selecting said for retrieving a device,~~
comprising:

~~transmitting means for transmitting information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said device~~

first transmission means for transmitting information representing ability of said device to the server; and

second transmission means for transmitting, to the server, information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by said client, for said device.

15. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 14, further comprising:

~~first storing means for storing the device information of said device;~~

~~second storing means for storing the ability information of said device driver; and~~

~~combining means for combining the device information stored in said first storing means and the ability information stored in said second storing means.~~

first storage means for storing the information representing the ability of said device;

second storage means for storing the information representing the ability of the device driver for said device; and

generation means for generating information by coupling the information stored in said first storage means and the information stored in said second storage means together.

16. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 14, further comprising inquiring means for inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of the said device driver.

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 14, wherein the said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the said device.

18. (Original) A device according to claim 14, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

19. (Currently Amended) A device retrieval system for retrieving a device on a network, comprising:

first transmission means for transmitting information representing ability of the device;

second transmission means for transmitting information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by a client, for said device;

third transmission means for transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting

said device;

retrieval means for retrieving the device based on the information
transmitted by said first transmission means, the information transmitted by said second
transmission means and the retrieval condition transmitted by said third transmission
means; and

fourth transmission means for transmitting a retrieval result of said retrieval
means.

~~A print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:~~

~~first transfer means for transferring information obtained by combining~~
~~device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device~~
~~which is executed by said client to said server from said device;~~

~~second transfer means for transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said~~
~~device to said server from said client;~~

~~retrieval means for retrieving the device by comparing the information~~
~~obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of~~
~~the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval~~
~~condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~third transfer means for transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval means~~
~~to said client from said server.~~

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An information processing method which is executed by a server capable of communicating ~~which can communicate~~ with a client and a device, comprising:

~~a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~a notifying step of notifying said client of a retrieval result by said retrieval step;~~

managing first information representing ability of said device;

managing second information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by the client, for said device;

receiving, from the client, a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the received retrieval condition; and

notifying the client of a retrieval result of said retrieving step.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

~~a receiving step of receiving, from said device, the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client; and~~

~~a registering step of registering the information received by said receiving~~

~~step into a storage.~~

receiving the first information representing the ability of the device; and

receiving the second information representing the ability of the device

driver for said device.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, further comprising~~[[:]]~~ generating information by coupling the first and second information together.

~~a receiving step of receiving the device information of said device from said device;~~

~~a first registering step of registering the device information received by said receiving step into a first storage; and~~

~~a second registering step of registering the ability information of said device driver into a second storage.~~

24. (Original) A method according to claim 23, ~~wherein the device information stored in said first storage and the ability information stored in said second storage are combined~~ further comprising registering the information generated in said generating step in a storage unit.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[21]]~~ 24, further comprising comparing the information registered in said registering step with the retrieval condition. ~~a registering step of registering the information obtained by combining~~

~~the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client into a storage.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein ~~said~~ the retrieval condition includes a plurality of conditions plural conditions,

wherein, in said step of retrieving, the first information, the second information and each condition included in the retrieval condition are compared with others, and obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client is compared with each of said conditions; and,

wherein [[in]] said notifying step[[,]] notifies the said client is notified of an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among said plurality of the plural conditions included in said the retrieval condition condition.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein ~~said device information is information regarding~~ the information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of [[a]] duplex print, [[an]] N-up print, [[a]] jobcopy, [[a]] pagecopy, [[an]] OHP insertion print, [[a]] resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the said device.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein ~~the comparison by said retrieval step is executed with respect to a plurality of~~ retrieval by said retrieval step is performed with respect to plural devices.

29. (Currently Amended) An information processing method which is executed by a client capable of communicating ~~which can communicate~~ with a server, comprising:

~~a transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting a device to said server;~~

~~a receiving step of receiving, from said server, a retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~a display control step of allowing a comparison result received by said receiving step to be displayed by a display.~~

transmitting to said server a retrieval condition for selecting a device;

receiving a retrieval result which is based on the retrieval condition, information representing ability of the device administrated by said server and information representing ability of a device driver for the device, and is which expressed in a form for discriminating a function executable by the device driver; and

controlling display to cause a display unit to display the retrieval result received in said receiving step.

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29, further comprising an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by

the said retrieval item.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein in said input step, a plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein, in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in the said retrieval condition is received, and in said display control step, said adaptivity is displayed by the said display.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 30, wherein the said retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

34. (Currently Amended) An information processing method which is executed by a device capable of communicating with ~~which can communicate~~ with a server, which transmits ~~for transmitting a retrieval result~~ to a client ~~with respect to a retrieval condition which is~~ result in response to a retrieval condition sent from the said client ~~and used for selecting said~~ for retrieving a device, comprising:

~~a transmitting step of transmitting information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said device:~~

transmitting first information to the server representing ability of the device;

and

transmitting, to said server, second information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by the client, for said device

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, further comprising comprising:

~~a combining step of combining said device information stored in a first storage and said ability information stored in a second storage;~~

storing the first information representing the ability of said device;

storing the second information representing the ability of the device driver for said device; and

generating information by coupling the first information and the second information together.

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, further comprising an inquiring step of inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of the said device driver.

37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein the said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the said device.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

39. (Currently Amended) A device retrieval method for retrieving a device on a network, comprising:

transmitting first information representing ability of said device;

transmitting second information representing ability of a device driver,

which is executed by a client, for the device;

transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the transmitted retrieval condition; and

transmitting a retrieval result of said retrieving step.

~~An information processing method which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:~~

~~a first transfer step of transferring information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said server from said device;~~

~~a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;~~

~~a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said server.~~

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) An information processing program which is executed by a server capable of communicating ~~which can communicate~~ with a client and a device, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

~~a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~a notifying step of notifying said client of a retrieval result by said retrieval step.~~

first managing step of managing first information representing ability of said device;

second managing step of managing second information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by the client, for the device;

receiving, from the client, a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the received retrieval condition; and

notifying the client of a retrieval result of said step of retrieving.

42. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 41, wherein said program allows the computer to execute:

~~a receiving step of receiving, from said device, the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client; and~~

~~a registering step of registering the information received by said receiving step into a storage.~~

receiving the first information representing the ability of the device; and

receiving the second information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.

43. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 41, wherein said program allows the computer to execute~~[[:]]~~ a step of generating information by coupling the first information and the second information together.

~~a receiving step of receiving the device information of said device from said device;~~

~~a first registering step of registering the device information received by said receiving step into a first storage; and~~

~~a second registering step of registering the ability information of said device driver into a second storage.~~

44. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 43, ~~wherein the device information stored in said first storage and the ability information stored in said~~

~~second storage are combined~~ further comprising registering the information generated in said generating step in a storage unit.

45. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim ~~[[41]]~~ 44, further comprising comparing the information registered in said registering step with the retrieval condition. ~~; wherein said program allows the computer to execute a registering step of registering the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client into a storage.~~

46. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 41, wherein said the retrieval condition includes ~~a plurality of conditions~~ plural conditions,

wherein ~~[[in]]~~ said retrieving step ~~[[.]]~~ compares the first information, the second information and each condition included in the retrieval condition with others, and ~~obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client is compared with each of said conditions, and~~

wherein ~~[[in]]~~ said notifying step~~[[, said]]~~ notifies the client ~~is notified~~ of an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among ~~said plurality of the plural~~ conditions included in ~~said the~~ retrieval condition condition.

47. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 41, wherein ~~said device information is information regarding~~ the information representing the ability of

the device is information concerning any one of [[a]] duplex print, [[an]] N-up print, [[a]] jobcopy, [[a]] pagecopy, [[an]] OHP insertion print, [[a]] resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the said device.

48. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 41, wherein the ~~comparison by said retrieval step is executed with respect to a plurality of~~ retrieval by said retrieval step is performed with respect to plural devices.

49. (Currently Amended) An information processing program which is executed by a client capable of communicating ~~which can communicate~~ with a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

~~a transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting a device to said server;~~

~~a receiving step of receiving, from said server, a retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~a display control step of allowing a comparison result received by said receiving step to be displayed by a display.~~

transmitting step of transmitting to the server a retrieval condition for selecting a device;

receiving step of receiving a retrieval result which is based on the retrieval

condition, information managed by the server representing ability of the device and information representing ability of a device driver for the device, and which is expressed in a form for discriminating a function executable by the device driver; and
display controlling step of causing a display unit to display the retrieval result received by said receiving step.

50. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 49, wherein said program allows the computer to execute an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by the ~~said~~ retrieval item.

51. (Original) A program according to claim 49, wherein in said input step, a plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

52. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 49, wherein in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in the ~~said~~ retrieval condition is received, and
wherein, in said display controlling ~~control~~ step, said adaptivity is displayed by said display.

53. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 50, wherein the ~~said~~ retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

54. (Currently Amended) An information processing program which is executed by a device capable of communicating ~~which can communicate~~ with a server, which transmits ~~for transmitting a retrieval result~~ to a client ~~with respect to~~ a retrieval ~~condition which is~~ result in response to a retrieval condition sent from said client ~~and used for selecting said~~ for retrieving a device, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

~~a transmitting step of transmitting information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said device~~

first transmitting step of transmitting information representing ability of said device to said server; and

second transmitting step of transmitting, to the server, information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by the client, for said device.

55. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 54, wherein said program allows the computer to ~~execute~~ execute:

~~a combining step of combining said device information stored in a first storage and said ability information stored in a second storage.~~

first storing step of storing the information representing the ability of said device;

second storage step of storing the information representing the ability of the device driver for said device; and

generating step of generating information by coupling the information

stored in said first storing step and the information stored in said second storing step together.

56. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 54, wherein said program allows the computer to execute an inquiring step of inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of the said device driver.

57. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 54, wherein the said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the said device.

58. (Original) A program according to claim 54, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

59. (Currently Amended) A device retrieval program for retrieving a device on a network, comprising:

first transmitting step of transmitting information representing ability of the device;

second transmitting step of transmitting information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by a client, for the device;

third transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting said device;

retrieving step of retrieving the device based on the information transmitted by said first transmitting step, the information transmitted by said second transmitting step and the retrieval condition transmitted by said third transmitting step; and
fourth transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval result by said retrieving step.

An information processing program which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

~~a first transfer step of transferring information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said server from said device;~~

~~a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;~~

~~a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and~~

~~a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said server.~~

60. to 73. (Canceled)

74. (New) A server according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval means retrieves the device for which at least one of the ability of the device and the ability of the

device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

75. (New) A server according to claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the client of the retrieval result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the retrieval by said retrieval means.

76. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein said retrieving step retrieves the device for which at least one of the ability of said device and the ability of the device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

77. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein said notifying step notifies the client of the retrieval result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the retrieval in said retrieval step.

78. (New) A program according to claim 41, wherein said retrieving step retrieves the device for which at least one of the ability of said device and the ability of the device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

79. (New) A program according to claim 41, wherein said notifying step notifies said client of the retrieval result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the retrieval in said retrieving step.